

OK folks, let's keep clean!

by **Leslie Peterson**

"Clean management." You won't find it in Webster's, but it should be part of every Western employee's working vocabulary. Also known as configuration management, clean management is "keeping a clean system clean." With the upcoming Y2K rollover, keeping Y2K compliant systems "clean" will be paramount.

At the corporate applications level, this will be a challenge. Typically, computer systems such as Western's wide area network or BIDSS, Maximo and RITA require constant attention. Information Services support staff across Western continually make modifications and upgrades designed to enhance efficiency or customize systems to Western's needs. Much of this "tinkering" occurs seamlessly behind the scenes.

But now that Western's systems are compliant, making changes runs the risk of introducing a new "bug." To prevent this, the Energy Department required all its agencies to implement clean management programs. Now any change to a compliant system must be carefully reviewed to assess its need and risk factor. If the change cannot be postponed, then it must be fully documented and the system retested for Y2K compliance.

At the CSO, Interim BMX Project Manager **Linda Lambrecht** issued a moratorium on all non-Y2K changes to the system until Jan. 15, 2000. She said, "The moratorium is designed to protect

not only our systems, but our users from a possible Y2K problem on their first day back at work after New Year's.

Procedures are in place that require multiple approvals before anything new can be put on our BMX, RITA, REIS or DIS systems."

The Sierra Nevada Region implemented a similar stringent review process for qualitative systems changes, such as adding new types of system software programs or modifying systems with patches and "hotfix" updates. "It just doesn't make sense to expend time and resources to make systems compliant, and then introduce new problems," explained Rollover Coordinator **Jasen Strutt**.

The same holds true at the personal computer level. All Western PCs are compliant. It's important these systems also stay clean or some unwelcome surprises could occur next January. As the rollover nears, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- ◆ **Plan to** defer all software or equipment upgrades until well after the rollover.
- ◆ **Don't** download software from the Internet.
- ◆ **Don't** try to improve your PC.
- ◆ **Do** call your local IS support if you have any questions.

We want a clean transition into the next millenium. Help make it happen.



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